

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
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To: All State Directors and Assistant Director WO200

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Fire Program Analysis System

The USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Fish and Wildlife Service have chartered and staffed an interagency core team to develop a single, uniform, performance-based system for preparedness and fire management program planning and budgeting. This system will provide land managers with a tool to determine the most cost-effective wildland fire management program that meets the full scope of program objectives. Implementation of the Fire Plan Analysis (FPA) System will occur on an interagency basis at a landscape-scale.

The timeline for development and implementation of FPA is aggressive. In response to direction in Appropriations Law, the first phase of the project will be to develop the preparedness portion of the analysis system, and have it *implemented by September 30, 2004*. Given this timeline, the continuing commitment of all agencies to be involved through all stages of this process is essential. In order to meet the development and implementation schedule and ensure that the final product meets the needs of resource and wildland fire programs, assistance from the five federal agencies with wildland fire programs is essential.

The FPA System will replace those processes currently in use by federal wildland agencies, such as IIAA, FirePro, and FireBase. The five federal land management agencies recognize the limitations of the existing analysis systems and seek to provide field users with a tool that better meets the needs of present and future wildland fire management programs. Furthermore, Congress and the Office of Management and Budget have provided specific direction to develop a new system for preparedness planning and budgeting. FPA is the new system and will be the method to justify and allocate funds for all wildland fire activities. Therefore, outputs of this system will directly affect the fire, resource, and aviation programs of the five federal agencies.

The objectives of the FPA Preparedness Module (FPA-PM) are to:

- Analyze the relationship between cost and effectiveness in achieving preparedness goals.
- Determine the firefighting resources that best utilize any given budget allocation.

Key attributes of FPA-PM are:

- Driven by land and fire management objectives.
- Will use the cost effectiveness of meeting multiple fire management objectives as the decision criteria.
- Will display the most cost effective organization for any budget allocation.
- Will display tradeoffs between meeting resource objectives and applicable National Performance Measures for any given budget.
- Will provide a common approach to fire management program planning and budgeting.
- Will facilitate meeting reporting requirements under the National Fire Plan and the Government Performance and Results Act.
- Partners including Tribal, state, and local governments are invited to participate in order to promote an integrated approach to managing wildland fire.

In the near future, agencies will be asked to provide some employees with skills to assist with specific elements of design and implementation of FPA-PM. It is important that we continue to actively participate and make employees available to assist the Core Team. Another important way for agencies to help will be to have employees participate in FPA workshops and provide feedback to the Core Team.

Agency involvement in this project will help ensure that concerns are addressed in development, and ease the transition to implementing this new system. Further information that details the purpose of FPA can be found on <http://fpa.nifc.gov>.

Questions should be referred to Howard Roose at (208) 947-3781 or Wini Sorensen at (208) 387-5154.

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